

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11355 01 OF 02 201741Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----004314 201745Z /72  
O R 201730Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9562  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11355

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)  
SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR  
PRESIDENT'S TOWN MEETING IN BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 147755 (B) USBERLIN 1424

AS SUGGESTED REFTELS, WE ARE SUBMITTING SOME ADDI-  
TIONAL CONTINGENCY Q'S AND A'S ON US-FRG RELATIONS,  
ON BERLIN, AND ON THE US-FRG-GDR NEXUS. WE ALSO ANTI-  
CIPATE POSSIBLE QUESTIONS DEALING WITH EAST GERMANY, ITS  
LEADERSHIP, US VIEWS ON THE GDR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, AND  
SIMILAR MATTERS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE  
CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN THIS AREA.

Q.: WHY ARE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND THE FRG AT  
SUCH A LOW POINT? IS THIS YOUR FAULT OR CHANCELLOR  
SCHMIDT'S FAULT? DON'T YOU GET ALONG?

A.: LET ME ANSWER WITH A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE  
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CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE FRG IN VIRTUALLY EVERY  
AREA IN WORLD ACTIVITY, BE IT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC  
OR DEFENSE. IN FACT, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS AS CLOSE  
A PATTERN OF COOPERATION AS ONE CAN FIND AMONG  
FRIENDLY PARTNERS. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S.  
AND GERMANY ARE HEALTHY, VIGOROUS AND EXCELLENT.  
WE WORK CLOSELY AND WE TRUST EACH OTHER.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO COOPERATE AS CLOSELY AS WE DO WITHOUT DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS. IT WOULD BE UNNATURAL IF WE DID NOT HAVE THEM. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY ARE DIFFERENCES AMONG FRIENDS, AND OFTEN A SIGN OF OUR CLOSENESS RATHER THAN OF DISTANCE BETWEEN US.

AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT BOTH BEFORE MY VISIT TO THE FRG AS WELL AS TODAY, MY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE CHANCELLOR ARE EXCELLENT, AND ARE BASED NOT ONLY ON MUTUAL RESPECT BUT ALSO ON A PROFOUND SENSE OF COMMON PURPOSE.

Q.: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US-GERMAN RELATIONS IF THE GOVERNMENT IN BONN CHANGED? WOULD YOU BE HAPPIER DEALING WITH THE OPPOSITION?

A.: WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF VIGOROUS COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND HIS GOVERNMENT, AND WITH CHANCELLOR BRANDT BEFORE. WE ALSO HAVE A LONG AND PRODUCTIVE RECORD OF COOPERATION WITH ALL OTHER GERMAN POST-WAR GOVERNMENTS, BEGINNING WITH KONRAD ADENAUER. THE COMMON INTERESTS THAT MAKE THE U. S. AND THE FRG SUCH CLOSE PARTNERS IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD WOULD CONTINUE

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UNDER ANY GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN AS HEALTHY, COOPERATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE AS THEY ARE TODAY.

Q.: AMERICA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE FRG AND THE GDR. WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE QUESTION OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION?

A.: THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL TREATY ENDING WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE. THEREFORE, WE VIEW THE FUTURE OF GERMANY, INCLUDING ITS EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION, AS AN OPEN QUESTION; ONE THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH EAST AND WEST GERMANY WILL NEED TO ADDRESS. THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND FOR HISTORY TO RESOLVE.

Q.: DON'T YOU THINK THAT THE WORSENING CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS SERIOUS RISKS FOR DETENTE AND SPECIFICALLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11355

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FOR BERLIN?

A.: LET ME ANSWER IN TWO PARTS: FIRST, WE HAVE SOUGHT  
AND CONTINUE TO SEEK GOOD, PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS  
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS THEIR ACTIONS -- FOR  
EXAMPLE, IN AFRICA -- WHICH HAVE BEEN THREATENING  
THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US. I HAVE MADE  
THIS CLEAR TO THEM AND ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT WE  
STAND READY TO PURSUE OUR PATTERN OF COOPERATION  
AND OUR QUEST FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. SECONDLY,  
ON BERLIN, WE HAVE STOOD BEHIND BERLIN WITH TOTAL  
RESOLVE IN PERIODS WHEN US-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE  
GOOD AND BAD. I GIVE YOU MY ASSURANCE THAT THIS  
RESOLVE AND THIS SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE.

Q.: WHY DOES AMERICA TOLERATE IT WHEN THE SOVIETS  
AND THE EAST GERMANS STOP TRAFFIC COMING INTO  
AND OUT OF BERLIN -- AS FOR EXAMPLE ON JUNE 17,  
"GERMAN UNITY DAY," WHEN THEY SLOWED DOWN OR  
BLOCKED FRG CITIZENS TRAVELING TO BERLIN?

A.: AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS  
WELL-KNOWN, AND WE HAVE LEFT NO DOUBTS WHERE WE  
STAND ON THIS ISSUE. FREE MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND BERLIN IS NOT ONLY A BASIC RIGHT, IT IS ALSO A MATTER THAT IS PROVIDED FOR BY THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT AND THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE Q.A. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN VIGOROUSLY TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE WHENEVER A VIOLATION OF THE BASIC RIGHT OF MOVEMENT OCCURS.

Q.: DOES AMERICA RECOGNIZE BONN AS THE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF THE FRG? OR DO YOU CONSIDER BERLIN TO BE THE REAL CAPITAL?

A.: WE CERTAINLY CONSIDER BONN TO BE THE CAPITAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECALL IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1949 AS THE PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OF THE FRG (NOTE: BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL TO FRAME THE GERMAN BASIC LAW HEADED BY ADENAUER), ON THE PREMISE THAT BERLIN WOULD BE THE CAPITAL OF A UNITED GERMANY. WE ARE AWARE OF THIS POINT, WHICH IS ONE FOR THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PRESENT, AND WHICH IS ULTIMATELY FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE.

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